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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC:MR
REVIEWED BY *W. Hill* DATE *2/1/71*
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

RPTD INFO: ~~Amembassy~~ MOSCOW
" " Amconsul GENEVA GATT
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Department still has no concrete info on terms Fenno-Soviet M-F-N arrangement.

We expect that EFTA countries will have great difficulty accepting M-F-N treatment of kind Finns appear to have worked out, which we believe are essentially same difficulties we would have. Thus EFTA countries in striking balance between political and other aspects Finnish association may well take relatively strong position against extensive Finnish M-F-N treatment USSR.

Addressees requested continue report developments this issue particularly

Drafted by: BNA:CHTauey:ls 12/1/60

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details Finnish-EFTA and Finnish-Soviet arrangements and attitudes individual EFTA countries. Care should be taken in response requests by host governments for US views to avoid indication US Government has developed position this matter. Primary responsibility rests EFTA countries and Finland. US defers determination nature/^{any} action required to protect its important interests until after/^{informed} details of arrangements including EFTA proposals handle ~~Finnish-Soviet~~ M-F-N problem.

FOR EMBASSY LONDON ONLY: Economic Minister requested approach appropriate and officials informally/inquire how British would plan cope following problems (1) if extension GATT waiver sought to permit/~~extend~~ preferential treatment to Soviet, other contracting parties could find difficult resist Soviet pressures for preferential treatment x

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Minister should note our belief difficulties encountered by EFTA countries similar those envisaged by US/and indicate hope UK exploring ways mitigate potential adverse effects/by such means as exclusion products involved from EFTA association arrangement or generalization to all GATT contracting parties of reduction internal duties and other trade barriers granted EFTA and USSR. You should also emphasize US antipathy to a general GATT waiver.

DILLON

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acting
(W.C.B.)

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